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Claims 1-42, 45-49, 51-52, and 55-94 have been canceled. Claims 43-44, 50, 53-54, and 95 remain pending in the application. Claims 50, 53-54, and 95 have been withdrawn from consideration. Applicants amend claim 43 for clarification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 43-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

The Examiner objected to an apparent inconsistency between the claimed conversion of "generated control information" and the corresponding description on page 800, lines 14-19 of the specification.

Page 800, lines 9-19 of the specification includes the following:

"As described as a DS3-SMDS interface in part 2, the intra-station device (SINF) 7 controls a subscriber cell and managed by an intra-station device (SIFSH) 8. The intra-station devices 7 and 8 are connected via cable. As described as a DS3-SMDS interface in part 3, the intra-station device 8 has the functions of concentrating each of the intra-station device 7, identifying a subscriber cell and intra-station control communications cell (signaling cell), and converting an intra-station control communications cell into a LAP frame."

Thus, the specification includes description of an "intra-station device (SINF) 7" as an exemplary embodiment of the claimed "intra-station device," and includes description of an "intra-station device (SIFSH) 8" as an exemplary embodiment of the claimed "interface unit." Applicants also amend claim 43 to clearly recite the feature of transmitting "the control information appended with the routing information to the switch station." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 43 clearly recites the invention, an exemplary embodiment of which is described in the specification, and request that the Examiner withdraw the § 112, ¶ 2 rejection.

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Claims 43-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,303,236 to Kunimoto et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Kunimoto et al. describe an ADP Processing Unit 100 that is connected to a LAPD-LSI, and connected to an ATM switch 30 through a bus 15. The Examiner apparently relied upon the description of the ADP Processing Unit 100 as alleged disclosure of the claimed control processor; and relied upon the description of a Subscriber Line Interface 10, as illustrated in Fig. 6 of Kunimoto et al., as alleged disclosure of the claimed interface unit. The cited portions of Kunimoto et al. do not include, however, any description of transmitting any control information generated by the ADP Processing Unit 100 from the Subscriber Line Interface 10 through the ATM switch 30. Nor do the cited portions of Kunimoto et al. include any description of control information being transmitted through the ATM switch 30 to the Subscriber Line Interface 10.

In other words, Kunimoto et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, fail to disclose,

“[a] switch station, which exchanges a fixed-length packet with a predetermined format, comprising:
a switch exchanging the fixed-length packet;
a control processor generating control information in a link access protocol (LAP) frame data format, which cannot be exchanged by said switch, to control operations of this switch station;
an intra-station device, provided within this switch station, performing a communication operation on a subscriber fixed-length packet according to the control information from said control processor; and
an interface unit converting the data format of the generated control information into a data format of the fixed-length packet which said switch can exchange;
wherein the converted control information is communicated through said switch,

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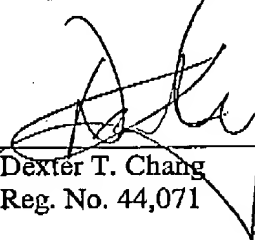
the control information is communicated according to link access protocol, and
said interface unit converts the data format of the control information into the data format processed by the switch station, adds to the control information such routing information as can be identified by the switch station and routed by said interface unit at a receiving equipment, and transmits the control information appended with the routing information to the switch station," as recited in claim 43. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 43, together with claim 44 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Kunimoto et al. for at least the foregoing reasons.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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DTC:

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